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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 10 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the distribution, as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27, of the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fifth extraordinary session, held at Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 1 and 2 March 2001 (annex I), and the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-third ordinary session, held at Tripoli from 22 to 26 February 2001 (annex II).*

(*Signed*) Carlos **dos Santos**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique
and Chairman of the African Group for the month of April

* The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only.

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Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fifth extraordinary session

EAHG/Dec.1 (V)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Fifth Extraordinary Session in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 2 March 2001:

- Recalling the Sirte Declaration of 9.9.99 adopted by the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly;

- Further recalling the adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union by the Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Lome, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2000;

- Noting that all Member States have signed the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

DECIDES:

1. To proudly declare the establishment of the African Union by the unanimous will of Member States;

2. That the legal requirements for the Union will have been completed upon the deposit of the 36th instrument of ratification of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

3. That the Constitutive Act of the African Union shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by two-thirds of the Member States of the OAU, as provided for in Article 28 of the Constitutive Act;

4. That the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly should take the necessary decisions pertaining to the transformation of the OAU into the African Union, in accordance with Article 33 of the Constitutive Act, and the preparation of necessary draft protocols relating to the Organs and Institutions of the Union.

EAHG/Dec.2 (V)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT: DOC. EAHG/3 (V)

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Fifth Extraordinary Session in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 2 March 2001:

Having considered the recommendation of the 73rd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers contained in Decision CM/566 (LXXIII) on the Draft Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament:

1. TAKES NOTE of the recommendation;

2. ADOPTS, with amendments to Articles 4 and 25, the Draft Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament and URGES all Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol as expeditiously as possible.

EAHG/Dec. 3 (V)

DECISION ON THE LOCKERBIE ISSUE

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Fifth Extraordinary Session in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 2 March 2001;

- Having reviewed the evolution of the Lockerbie issue, particularly the verdict handed down by the Scottish Court at Camp Ziest;

- Having taken note of the statement made by President Nelson Mandela on this issue at the opening of the Fifth Extraordinary Session;

- Bearing in mind the relevant decisions of the OAU and those of the Community of the Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and other International and Regional Organizations all of which commended the Great Jamahiriya for its responsible and laudable attitude as well as for the cooperation it has shown in this matter;

1. ENDORSES the resolution on the Lockerbie issue adopted by the CEN-SAD Summit held in Khartoum, from 12 to 13 February 2001;

2. CALLS UPON the United Nations Security Council to immediately and definitively lift the sanctions imposed on Libya;

3. DECIDES to establish a Commission of Jurists to follow up on all aspects related to the legal proceedings and report to the Assembly;

4. MANDATES the Heads of State (the countries to be determined after consultation), making use of their good offices, to maintain the necessary contacts with all concerned parties with a view to ensuring a speedy and satisfactory resolution of the issue.

EAHG/Dec.4 (V)

SPECIAL MOTION OF THANKS TO THE LEADER OF THE GREAT SOCIALIST LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA BROTHER MUAMMAR AL GHADDAFI ADOPTED BY THE FIFTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in our Fifth Extraordinary Session, in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 2 March 2001,

- Considering the initiatives taken by Brother Muammar Ghaddafi to strengthen the unity, cohesion and solidarity of our peoples and continent;

- Bearing in mind, the immense contributions made by the Libyan people and leadership, to the advancement of the objectives of the continent, in the area of peace, security, stability and development;

- Conscious of the persistent attempts to destabilize the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and thereby divert the attention of its Leader from reasserting the dignity and freedom of his people as well as undermining the important role that our Brother and his people have been playing in our continent;

HEREBY

1. PAY DESERVING TRIBUTE to Brother Muammar Al Ghaddafi, Leader of the Great Al Fatah Revolution for his role and efforts as the son of Africa;

2. REAFFIRM our confidence in his determined efforts aimed at realizing our collective vision for unity, cooperation, development, peace and security in our continent;

3. CONSIDER that any act aimed at destabilizing and undermining the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya constitutes an affront to the collective aspiration of Africa and African peoples towards the attainment of self esteem, dignity and independence.

Annex II

Decisions and regulation adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-third ordinary session

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CM/Dec.547 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- Doc. CM/2186 (LXXIII)
- Doc. CM/2187 (LXXIII)

Council, after considering the Reports of:

- The Fourth Ordinary Session of the Committee of the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters April 2000 - Doc CM/2186 (LXXIII); and

- The Sixty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters - Doc CM/2187 (LXXIII);

1. TAKES NOTE of the two reports;

2. ENDORSES all the recommendations made in the two reports and REQUESTS the Secretary General to ensure their implementation.

CM/Dec.548 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE 1999/2000 FINANCIAL YEAR - Doc. CM/2182 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. COMMENDS the Secretary General for the efforts made to improve the administrative and financial management of the Organization;

3. ENCOURAGES the Secretary General to continue with efforts aimed at ensuring financial discipline in the execution of the approved budget according to the priorities of the Organization.

CM/Dec. 549 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL OFFICES FOR THE 1999/2000 FINANCIAL YEAR AND THE COMMENTS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND THE REGIONAL OFFICES - Doc. CM/2183 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report.;

2. COMMENDS the Board of External Auditors for the work done on behalf of Member States;

3. ENDORSES the recommendations made by the Board to improve the administrative and financial management of the Organisation without prejudice to the current exercise to review the Financial Rules and Regulations;

4. FURTHER TAKES NOTE that the Board of External Auditors will henceforth carry out its work between mid-September to mid-October of each year;

5. ENCOURAGES the General Secretariat to submit its comments on the Report of the Consultant on the Financial Rules and Regulations at the next Session of the Advisory Committee in December 2001.

CM/Dec. 550 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS - Doc. CM/2189 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. COMMENDS the Member States which are currently up-to-date in the payment of their assessed contributions;

3. DECIDES to grant temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions until the opening of the Seventy-fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, to Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Sierra Leone on condition that these countries respect their rescheduling plans and pay their assessed contributions in keeping with Resolution CM/Res.1279 (LII) paragraph 2 (d);

4. DECIDES FURTHER that sanctions imposed on the Democratic Republic of Congo be maintained;

5. TAKES NOTE that having paid 30% of their outstanding arrears, the following Member States are entitled to temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions until the opening of the Seventy-Fourth Ordinary Session of Council, unless they fail to honour their obligations to the current budget as at 1st June 2001: Central African Republic, Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe and Seychelles;

6. ENDORSES the recommendations in the Report as follows:

   a) that all defaulting Member States which present rescheduling plans should ensure that apart from honouring their plans they also pay their assessed contributions to the regular budget;

b) that any Member State in arrears but which pays 30% of the outstanding amount will be considered for temporary and exceptional exemption for a period up to the opening of the next Session of Council, provided it has also honoured its financial obligations to the current budget;

c) that none of these exemptions will, in any way, influence the mandatory sanction prohibiting the recruitment of nationals of the defaulting countries as new staff members as provided for in Resolution CM/Res.1311(LII). In this regard, the General Secretariat must comply with and strictly implement this specific measure, not only for the recruitment of regular staff members but also for temporary staff such as the freelance technical staff;

d) that the Committee on the Review of the Scale of Assessment reconvene, as soon as possible, to review the scale of assessment.

CM/Dec.551 (LXXIII)

DECISION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER STATES WHICH ARE UP TO DATE IN THE PAYMENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEORGANIZATION - Doc.CM/2188 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. COMMENDS the Member States which have continued to set the pace in meeting their financial obligations to the regular budget of the Organisation;

2. SPECIALLY COMMENDS the following Member States which as at 26 February 2001 are up-do-date in the payment of their annual contributions to the Organisation:

   a) Botswana
   b) Ethiopia
   c) Mozambique
   d) Namibia
   e) Senegal
   f) South Africa
   g) Swaziland
   h) Togo
   i) Mauritius
   j) Lesotho
   k) Chad

CM/Dec. 552 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES - Doc.CM/2184 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report and its recommendations;

2. COMMENDS the work of the Committee, REQUESTS the rationalization and streamlining of the number of meetings in the Calendar and CALLS UPON particularly Organizations like the ECA, ADB and the RECs to harmonize their calendar of meetings with that of the OAU in order to avoid duplication;

3. Further REQUESTS the General Secretariat to implement the Calendar of Meetings as approved by the 69th Session of the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters.

CM/Dec.553 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002 - Doc. CM/2185 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. APPROVES the Draft Programme Budget for the 2001/2002 Financial Year;

2. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to review upward the allocation for the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa;

3. URGES Member States to pay their assessed contributions to the OAU Regular Budget.

CM/Dec.554 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT - Doc 2190 (LXXIII) Rev.1

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. COMMENDS the Secretary General for the progress made so far in the implementation of the decision to restructure the General Secretariat;

3. URGES the General Secretariat to continue to keep Member States informed of progress in the restructuring exercise;

4. FURTHER URGES the General Secretariat to undertake the recruitment exercise with utmost care and in all transparency in order to select the best candidates for the Organization bearing in mind competence and also geographical distribution;

5. CALLS UPON the Secretary General to submit to the next Session of the Council within the framework of the Career Development Plan, comprehensive proposals to address motivation of Staff, including the review of salaries.

CM/Dec.555 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE 27TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE OAU RELATING TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL OFFICES - Doc.CM/2199 (LXXIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report as well as the recommendations contained therein;

2. COMMENDS the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Structural Reform and the General Secretariat for the efforts deployed towards implementation of Decision CM/Dec.461 (LXX) on the restructuring of the Scientific and Technical Offices;

3. DECIDES as follows:

   a) For the Office of the OAU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Research (OAU/IBAR Nairobi, Kenya):

      i) OAU/IBAR remains the structure of a OAU with a wide degree of administrative and financial autonomy;

      ii) OAU/IBAR should be provided with high level professional leadership to enable it carry out its mandate efficiently;

      iii) A multidisciplinary team of experts should be recruited to carry out a detailed evaluation of the activities of IBAR and propose a new structure for the OAU/IBAR;

      iv) The Team should take into account most of the proposals made under option one (para 49-51 of Document DTT/25/1);

      v) The Team should conduct wide consultations before making its submission;

vi) The Team should also evaluate the staff and identify those who will fit in the new structure;

vii) In setting up the multidisciplinary teams, the OAU should take advantage of the financing available under some OAU/IBAR projects for the capacity building referred to above;

viii) IBAR Office should design and implement an information and communication strategy to disseminate information about its activities to all Member States, their representatives at the OAU Headquarters, partners and potential partners;

ix) The OAU Secretariat should provide assistance to the OAU/IBAR Office to develop programmes, carry out resource mobilisation and outreach programmes to beneficiaries and donors.

b) For the OAU/IAPSC Office in Yaounde (Cameroon):

i) OAU/IAPSC remains a structure of the OAU with a wide degree of administrative and financial autonomy;

ii) OAU/IAPSC should be provided with high level professional leadership to enable it carry out its mandate efficiently;

iii) A multidisciplinary team of experts should be recruited to carry out a detailed evaluation of the activities of the IAPSC and propose a new structure for the OAU/IAPSC;

iv) The team should take into account most of the proposals made under option one (para 65-68 of document DTT/25/1);

v) The Team should conduct wide consultations before making its submission;

vi) The Team should also evaluate the staff and identify those who will fit in the new structure;

vii) In setting up multidisciplinary teams, the OAU should take advantage of the financing available under some OAU/IAPSC projects for capacity building referred to above;

viii) IAPSC Office should design and implement an information and communication strategy about its activities to all Member States, their representatives at the OAU Headquarters, partners and potential partners;

ix) The OAU Secretariat should provide assistance to the OAU/IAPSC Office to develop programmes, carry out resource mobilization and outreach programmes to beneficiaries and donors.

c) For the International Coordination Office (ICO) of the Regional Programme for the Integrated Management of the Fouta-Djallon Highlands (RPIM-FDH) in Conakry (Guinea):

i) To endorse the principle of the transfer of responsibility for the Fouta-Djallon Highlands Integrated Development Programme to ECOWAS;

ii) To urge the General Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure the immediate take off of the Institutional and Technical studies;

iii) To call on the General Secretariat of the OAU to carry out consultations with the Secretariat of ECOWAS to work out the transfer modalities, on the understanding that the outcome of these consultations would be presented to the policy organs of the two organisations for final decision on the transfer;

iv) To request the General Secretariat to submit the outcome of the above-mentioned consultation to the 75th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

v) To request the General Secretariat to continue to provide the International Coordination Office with financial assistance for the execution of its programmes, give it all the necessary support towards mobilisation of resources and to make its programmes better known to the beneficiary States and donors.

(d) For the CEHLTO Office, Niamey

i) To take note of the Recommendations of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Structural Reform;

ii) To recommend that a supplementary study be carried out by an Independent Expert on an agreed Terms of Reference;

iii) To request the Secretary General to submit a detailed Report on the outcome of the above-mentioned study to the 75th Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers;

4. URGES the governments of the countries hosting the above Offices to provide them with suitable premises to enable them to function normally, and to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the premises so provided as well as all other facilities necessary for the functioning of these Offices;

5. REQUESTS that the Headquarters Agreement between the OAU and the respective Host Countries be reviewed and updated as part of the restructuring of these Offices;

6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to release from service the staff members of the above Offices who have opted for voluntary departure, in accordance with the established modalities;

7. FINALLY REQUESTS the Secretary General to take appropriate measures for the immediate implementation of these decisions and provisions.

CM/Dec.556 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF THE OAU PEACE FUND - Doc. CM/2192 (LXXIII))

Council:

1. EXPRESSES its grave concern over the critical financial situation of the OAU Peace Fund and the negative implications for the work of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;

2. EXPRESSES its gratitude to OAU partner countries and the Institutions which have contributed to the OAU Peace Fund, and APPEALS to them to continue to provide such assistance;

3. PAYS TRIBUTE to those Member States which have made voluntary contributions to the Fund (namely South Africa, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Egypt, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia) and URGES other Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

4. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to pursue and intensify its efforts aimed at mobilizing additional resources for the Fund, from within and outside the Continent, and to adopt the most appropriate strategies, to that effect.

CM/Dec.557 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALGIERS AND LOME DECISIONS AND REGULATIONS - Doc.2193 (LXXIII) - a

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. REQUESTS Member States to carry out the activities and recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors and Other Plenipotentiaries.

CM/Dec.558 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC) AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITES (RECs) - Doc. CM/2193 (LXXIII) - b

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report;

2. ENDORSES the conclusion of the first meeting of the Committee on Coordination, established under the Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities, held in Tripoli on 22 and 24 February 2001.

CM/Dec.559 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ESTABLISHEMENT OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION - Doc CM/2193 (LXXIII) - c

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary General and COMMENDS the efforts of the Secretariat towards the establishment of the African Energy Commission;

2. ENDORSES the principle of establishment of the African Energy Commission and URGES all OAU Member States to participate in the Conference of African Ministers of Energy to consider the establishment of the African Energy Commission to be held in Algiers, Algeria on 23 - 24 April 2001 and EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for offering to host the Ministerial meeting;

3. INVITES all OAU Member States to make financial contributions towards the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

4. ALSO EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for having hosted the experts meeting for the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

5. REQUESTS the Secretary General to report to the 74th Ordinary Session of Council and 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly for final decision.

CM/Dec.560 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ERADICATION OF TSE TSE FLY FROM AFRICA (Doc.CM/2193 (LXXIII) - d

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary General and COMMENDS the OAU Secretariat for the steps taken for the eradication of Tse Tse fly;

2. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the invaluable contribution it rendered to the Secretariat for the implementation of the Summit Decision, by assigning a consultant to assist the General Secretariat to prepare adequately for the launching of the campaign without delay;

3. ALSO TAKES NOTE of the progress made in the implementation of the Summit decision particularly the preparation of the "Plan of Action" for the eradication of tse tse fly;

4. CALLS UPON OAU Partners, donor agencies and the International Community to respond positively to the request of the OAU Secretary General in his endeavour to mobilize funds for the implementation of the Summit Decision on Tse tse eradication;

5. URGES Member States to establish national projects, wherever they do not exist and to support the ongoing national projects in all aspects as their success would encourage other countries to do the same;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary General to convene the Fourth OAU Seminar on the eradication of the tse tse fly from Africa as part of the declaration of 2001 as the year of launching the campaign for eradication of tse tse fly from the continent;

7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to encourage the launching of the process of establishment of Regional PATTEC Pilot Projects (RPP) in each region of the Continent;

8. FINALLY REQUESTS the Secretary General to submit a report on the progress so far made to the next OAU Summit.

CM/Dec.561 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE 8TH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR - Doc. CM/2193 (LXXIII) - e

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report;

2. ENDORSES the decision of the 3rd Conference of African Ministers of Trade held under the auspices of the AEC Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration that the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair be held in Egypt in March/April 2002;

3. REQUESTS the Secretary General to carry out consultations with the Government of Egypt to fix the precise dates for the Fair;

4. CONSTITUTES the Technical Organizing Committee for the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair as follows:

    a) Chairman: Egypt;

    b) Members: Nigeria, Senegal, The Sudan, Cameroon and South Africa;

    c) Representatives of Regional Economic Communities: ECOWAS, COMESA, ECCAS, UMA, SADC, CENSAD and IGAD;

    d) Collaborating Agencies: International Trade Centre (ITC) of UNCTAD/WTO, UNIDO, UNCTAD Secretariat, ACP Secretariat, ACP Chamber of Commerce, FAO, UNECA, ADB, Union of African Radio and Television Agencies (URTNA), the Pan-African News Agency (PANA), the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE), the East and Southern Africa Business Organization (ESABO), the Africa-Export/Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), Association of African Airlines (AFRAA), the World Tourism Organization (WTO),

the International Chamber of Commerce, and Union of International Trade Fairs;

5. ESTABLISHES the calendar of meetings of the Technical Organizing Committee as April/May 2001, October/November 2001 and January/February 2002;

6. APPEALS to the European Union Commission, the UNDP and all Bi-lateral Development Partners of the OAU to favourably consider requests of the OAU and/or its Member States for financial and technical assistance to facilitate the holding of the Fair;

7. URGES all Member States to make early plans and preparations to mobilize their economic operators to fully participate in the Fair;

8. REQUESTS the Secretary General to present periodic reports to Council and to ensure the success of the Fair.

CM/Dec.562 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON PROGRESS IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE ON AFRICA'S EXTRNAL DEBT - Doc. CM/2193 (LXXIII) - f

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report.

2. REQUESTS the Secretary General to deepen the preparatory process for the Conference on Africa's External Debt by taking the necessary steps to widen the scope of technical work and urgently constituting the Independent Panel of High-Level African Experts to backstop the Contact Group on Africa's External Debt;

3. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary General to urgently convene the Independent Experts Panel to carry out a comprehensive diagnosis of the Africa's External Debt Problem, including the holding of an African regional experts seminar to conduct an analysis of Africa's External Debt and the establishment of an African Debt Management Fund;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to submit proposals to the African Regional Conference which will deepen the reflection on the matter, with a view to re-engaging the creditor countries and institutions on the problem of Africa's External Debt;

5. REITERATES the urgent need for the General Secretariat to coordinate its technical work on Africa's Debt with that of the United Nations Preparatory Committee on the International Conference on Development Financing in order to prepare and adopt a Common African Position

ahead of the United Nations International Conference on Development Financing scheduled for 2002;

6. FURTHER REQUESTS the General Secretariat to redouble its efforts aimed at reforming the International Finance Architecture through proper coordination and collaboration with the IMF and the World Bank, to ensure the inclusion and participation of African States in the decision making processes of the international financial system;

7. FINALLY REQUESTS the Secretary General to convene at the appropriate time the 1st Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Monetary and Financial Matters of the African Economic Community to take decision on the matter;

8. APPEALS to all agencies of the United Nations system, including UNECA and UNCTAD as well as the African Development Bank to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to that end.

CM/Dec.563 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON REVISION OF THE 1968 AFRICAN CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ALGIERS CONVENTION) - Doc. CM/2193 (LXXIII) - g

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report and appreciates the assistance of UNEP and IUCN in this respect;

2. CALLS UPON:

   a) the General Secretariat to continue to collaborate closely with UNEP and IUCN to ensure the timely conclusion of the revision of the Algiers Convention;

   b) the General Secretariat to allocate sufficient financial resources for the convening of the African Experts Meeting on the revision of the Convention;

   c) Member States, particularly those that are parties to the Convention to actively participate in the revision process by ensuring that their views and comments on the revised draft Convention are ready on time for the Experts meeting;

3. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION and gratitude to the UNEP and IYCN for their assistance in this process and REQUESTS them to further assist the Secretariat in its efforts to mobilize resources for this process.

CM/Dec.564 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS FOR THE OAU AD HOC ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL - Doc.CM/2195 (LXXIII)

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. COMMENDS the outgoing members of the OAU *Ad Hoc* Administrative Tribunal for their work;

3. APPROVES the recommendation for the nomination of the following Member States as new members of the Tribunal: Madagascar, Malawi and Mali;

4. CALLS UPON the new members to designate judges to the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible.

CM/Dec.565 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF OAU TREATIES - Doc. CM/2196 (LXXIII)

1. TAKE NOTE of the Report;

2. COMMENDS the Member States that have signed and/or ratified the various OAU Treaties;

3. APPEALS to all those Member States that have not yet signed and/or ratified these treaties to do so as expeditiously as possible.

CM/Dec.566 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT - DOC. CM/2198 (LXXIII) ANNEX I

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. APPROVES the Draft Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament;

3. RECOMMENDS the Draft Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for its consideration and adoption on the basis of the consensus reached during its deliberations on the issue of representation as reflected in the Report of Council.

CM/Dec. 567 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE OFFER OF TUNISIA TO HOST THE WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY

Council:

1. DECIDES to support the candidature of the Republic of Tunisia to host the World Summit on Information Society slated for 2003;

2. INVITES the African Group in Geneva to initiate the necessary contacts with the International Telecommunications Union to enlist the latter's support for this candidature.

CM/Dec.568 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. APPROVES the recommendation contained in the said Report;

3. DECIDES to endorse the following candidatures:

   a) The candidature of General Mohamed Abbas Mansour of Egypt as well as the candidature of Professor Seyoum Gebre Selassie of Ethiopia for membership of the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) for the period 2002 to 2007 at the elections to be held at the next session of ECOSOC in New York in May 2001;

   b) The candidature of Counsellor Mohamed Amin El Mahdi of Egypt and the candidature of Mr Mahbouli Abderraouf of Tunisia for membership of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the elections to be held at the United Nations General Assembly Session in March 2001;

4. REQUESTS the African Group in Geneva to examine the dossiers and, as soon as possible, submit appropriate recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on the candidature of Mr. Sayed K. El-Masry of Egypt for membership of the Committee Against Torture during elections to be held at Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Torture slated for November 2001.

5. REQUESTS the African Group in New York to examine the dossiers of, and as soon as possible, make appropriate recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on the following candidatures:

- the candidatures of Ambassador Nabil El Araby of Egypt, Mr. Emmanuel Akwei Addo of Ghana and Dr. Ali A. Dawi of Libya for election and/or re-election to one of the nine (9) seats on the International Law Commission reserved for the African Group, at the elections to be held during the 56th and 57th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2001 and September 2002, respectively;

- the candidatures of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Angola for the non-permanent seats reserved for Africa on the United Nations Security Council during elections to be held at the 56th and 57th Regular Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2001 and September 2002, respectively;

6. DECIDES that in view of the nature of the posts in contention, for which selection will be based on competence and individual merits of the candidates, it could not pronounce itself on the candidatures or Mr. Hatem Kotrane and Mme Atsede Guta, presented respectively by Tunisia and Ethiopia for membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child during elections to be held in New York on 26 February 2001 on the sidelines of the 8th meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. REQUESTS the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures to submit to it at its 74th Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001, recommendations on the candidatures referred for consideration by the African Groups in Geneva and New York respectively;

8. STRESSES the need for Member States to strictly comply with the deadlines for submission of their candidatures to the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures, pursuant to Article 12 of its Rules of Procedure, and CALLS on the General Secretariat to ensure that the Committee is provided with all necessary information, particularly information on the number of posts under consideration, the dates of submission of candidatures by Member States and the status of consultations at the level of the African Groups in New York and Geneva regarding African candidatures.

CM/569 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE CANDIDATURE OF MR ABLASSE OUEDRAOGO FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures and particularly the recommendation on the choice of Mr. Ablassé Ouedraogo as the African candidate for the post of Director General of UNIDO;

2. BELIEVES that the industrial sector is a key sector for economic and social development of Africa;

3. REAFFIRMS its support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which plays an important role in enhancing the industrialization efforts of African countries;

4. NOTES that the election to the post of Director General of UNIDO will take place in the course of the 24th Session of the Industrial Development Board scheduled to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 22 June 2001;

5. ALSO TAKES NOTE that since UNIDO became an independent Organization in June 1985, three Directors General coming from Asia and Latin America have been elected for two terms each while no single African candidate has so far occupied the post;

6. FIRMLY BELIEVES that at the next June 2001 election, a highly qualified African candidate should be considered for the post;

7. WELCOMES the candidature of Mr. Ablassé Ouedraogo for the post of Director General of UNIDO and STRONGLY SUPPORTS him as the sole candidate of Africa;

8. CALLS on all Member States of UNIDO to support the African candidate in the person of Ablassé Ouedraogo for the post of Director General of UNIDO;

9. REQUESTS the Secretary General to take appropriate action in support of the candidature of Mr. Ablassé Ouedraogo.

CM/Dec.570 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD SOLIDARITY FUND

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the statement by the delegation of Tunisia;

2. RECALLS Decision AHG.Decl.4 (XXXVI) in support of the appeal made by H.E. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, for the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund;

3. REQUESTS Member States to transmit to the United Nations Secretary General their positive and concrete proposals for the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund by 30 March 2001, and

4. URGES African organizations and institutions communicate to the United Nations Secretary General, their proposals regarding this issue, in conformity with the set deadline.

CM/Dec. 571 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

Council:

1. WELCOMES the signing in Moheli, on 17 February 2001, of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros, which testifies to the commitment of all the Comorian Parties to work towards a lasting resolution of the crisis in their country on the basis of respect for the unity and territorial integrity of the Archipelago, the return of constitutional legality and an all-inclusive process;

2. COMMENDS the Comorian Parties, namely the Government and the political forces supporting it in Moheli and in Grande Comore, the Anjouanese Party, the opposition and the civil society in the Islands for their commitment to and determination towards a successful conclusion of the negotiation, and REQUESTS them to continue to demonstrate the same determination in the process of implementing the Framework Agreement;

3. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the countries of the region, the Secretary General of the OAU and his Special Envoy for the sustained efforts they have deployed towards the resolution of the crisis in the Comoros and the signing of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros;

4. WELCOMES the efforts deployed by the Government of the Comoros towards overcoming the crisis in the country based on OAU principles and Decision AHG/141 (XXXV);

5. ALSO EXPRESSES its gratitude to the partners of the OAU, particularly the International Organization of the Francophonie, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Indian Ocean Commission and the United Nations, for their tireless support to the OAU and REQUESTS them to continue to provide their assistance for the implementation of the Framework Agreement of 17 February 2001;

6. DECIDES, in view of the signing of the Framework Agreement and the progress made in the search for solution, to immediately suspend the measures taken by the OAU against the leaders of the Anjouanese Separatist Movement, it being understood that the measures will be lifted definitively upon the establishment of the National Union Transitional Government provided for in the Framework Agreement;

7. REQUESTS the Secretary General to take all the necessary steps to facilitate the speedy and scrupulous implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros, particularly measures relating to the Framework Agreement Follow-up Mechanism, the drafting and adoption of the Constitution, arms collection, the reintegration of the youth and the organization of a Donor's Conference;

8. APPEALS to the international community, including the European Union and the specialised agencies of the United Nations system, as well as bilateral donors, to give all the necessary financial assistance for the speedy implementation of the Framework Agreement.

CM/Dec. 572 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MANO RIVER SUB-REGION

Council:

1. EXPRESS its grave concern over the deteriorating situation in the Mano River Basin;

2. CONDEMNS the actions of armed bands, more particularly acts of violence perpetrated against the civilian population and MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL for the respect of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law;

3. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the laudable efforts deployed by the ECOWAS leaders to find a lasting solution to the alarming situation prevailing in the sub-region;

4. APPEALS to all the concerned parties to support the ECOWAS initiatives aimed at promoting consultation and co-operation for peace and stability in the sub-region;

5. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the people and Government of Guinea for the generous hospitality they have always accorded the populations of the neighbouring countries in distress and HAILS its commitment to continue to give asylum to these populations, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the OAU Convention on Refugees;

6. REITERATES its support for the efforts exerted by ECOWAS countries and leaders and EXHORTS the Secretary General to continue to co-operate closely with them in the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis in the sub-region;

7. EXPRESSES its support for the efforts deployed by ECOWAS to find a definitive solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone, on the basis of the Lome Peace Agreement and the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement of 10 November 2000 signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Revolutionary Front (RUF);

8. APPEALS to Member States to contribute troops to enable UNAMSIL to attain its full staff complement and EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT for the Committee of the Parties in Sierra Leone.

CM/Dec. 573 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Council:

1. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the assassination of President Laurent Desire Kabila, which act was a flagrant violation of the principles of the OAU and CONVEYS its condolences to his family, the Government and people of the D.R.C;

2. COMMENDS the commitment by the President and the Government of the DRC to proceed with national dialogue under the facilitation of Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana;

3. FURTHER COMMENDS the commitment by the Government of Rwanda to redeploy its forces as indicated in its letter of 18 February 2001 to the President of the United Nations Security Council as well as the commitment by Uganda to immediately reduce by two battalions the strength its forces in the territory of the DRC;

4. WELCOMES the outcome of the Third Summit of the Signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement in the DRC held in Lusaka on 15 February 2001 during which the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Lusaka Cease-Fire Agreement, the Kampala Disengagement Plan and the Harare Disengagement and Redeployment sub-plans and committed themselves to the accelerated implementation of these important instruments;

5. ALSO WELCOMES the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001 following the joint meeting of the Security Council and members of the Political Committee in New York from 20 to 22 February 2001;

6. URGES the United Nations to take the necessary steps for a full and speedy deployment of military observers and related personnel in the DRC as authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 1291 of 24 February 2000 and paragraph 19 of UN Security Council Resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001;

7. FURTHER WELCOMES the appointment by the OAU Secretary General, of Brigadier General Njuki Mwaniki of Kenya as Chairman of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and URGES all the Parties to lend him the necessary support;

8. CALLS ON all Member States and on the International Community to provide political support and financial assistance towards the peace process in the DRC particularly to sustain the work of the Joint Military Commission and the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue;

9. REITERATES its support for the efforts of President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Chairman of the Regional Initiative and other Leaders and ENCOURAGES them to persevere in their efforts aimed at finding an early and lasting solution to the conflict.

CM/Dec. 574 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON REFUGEES

Council:

1. EXPRESSES its grave concern over the persistent and deteriorating refugee situation in Africa, a catastrophic situation for which Africans themselves should assume primary responsibility;

2. UNDERSCORES the imperative need to put an end to this situation by resolutely addressing its causes;

3. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the fielding of OAU evaluation and solidarity missions to Zambia, Sierra Leone, Congo and Guinea in January/February 2001;

4. EXPRESSES deserved appreciation for the financial assistance extended to the countries visited.

CM/Dec. 575 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN AFRICA (CSSDCA)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE with appreciation of the measures taken by the General Secretariat to implement the Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at their July 2000 Summit on CSSDCA in Lome and URGES the Secretariat to redouble its efforts in that regard;

2. WELCOMES the offer made by South Africa to host the meeting of Experts on the development and cooperation calabashes;

3. EMPHASIZES the urgent need to convene the scheduled meetings on the calabashes of the CSSDCA on development and cooperation and CALLS on Member States to offer to do so;

4. WELCOMES the pledge by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to contribute the sum of US$500,000 towards the takeoff of the CSSDCA within the Work Programme of the OAU, and CALLS ON other Member States to contribute towards this process;

5. EXPRESSES the hope that other Member States will offer to host the scheduled meetings on security and stability.

CM/Dec. 576 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN AFRICA

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the declarations made by the delegations of Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique on the natural calamities (torrential rains followed by floodings) which recently affected these countries, destroying infrastructure and resulting in mass movement of the people within and outside these countries;

2. EXPRESSES its solidarity with these countries and APPEALS to Member States and the International Community to respond favourably to the appeal for urgent assistance made by the affected countries;

3. REGRETS the periodic devastation caused to some OAU Member States by natural calamities and URGES the OAU Secretary General, in cooperation with relevant UN and other agencies, to consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to address the phenomenon.

CM/Dec. 577 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION

Council:

1. COMMENDS the efforts deployed by all Member States particularly by Egypt, Libya, The Sudan and Algeria to revitalise the Afro-Arab Cooperation;

2. WELCOMES the information provided by the Foreign Minister of the Sudan regarding the intention of Egypt, Libya and The Sudan to submit to the next Council of Arab Ministers, in March 2001 in Cairo, specific proposals aimed at revitalising Afro-Arab Cooperation;

3. FURTHER WELCOMES the statement by the Algerian Vice-Minister in charge of African Affairs reaffirming the will of his country to work resolutely towards the reactivation of Afro-Arab Cooperation;

4. WELCOMES WITH SATISFACTION the proposal by the Republic of Algeria to host the 12th Session of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation during the first half of April 2001;

5. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to implement as expeditiously as possible, Council Decisions CM/472 (LXX) and CM/537 (LXXII) and submit to the 74th Ordinary Session of Council a report incorporating, in particular, a study on document CM/info (LXVII) on Afro-Arab Cooperation presented by Egypt.

CM/Dec.578 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON SOMALIA

Council:

1. WELCOMES the successful outcome of the Somali National Conference, the establishment of a Transitional Assembly and the election of Mr. Abdiquassim Salad Hassan as President of the Transitional Government of Somalia;

2. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to President Ismael Omar Guelleh and the people of Djibouti for their sustained efforts which made this achievement possible;

3. FURTHER WELCOMES the decision adopted by the Eighth Summit of IGAD held in Khartoum, the Sudan, in November 2000, regarding the situation in Somalia as well as the efforts undertaken by H.E. Omar Hassan El-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, Current Chairman of IGAD, pursuant to the above-mentioned decision, to assist and facilitate the Somali national reconciliation process and the reconstruction efforts in Somalia;

4. ENCOURAGES the Transitional National Government to pursue the path of dialogue and engage those faction leaders who were not part of the Arta process to join the reconciliation efforts and CALLS on all parties to display the necessary political will and disposition in order to bring the national reconciliation process to a successful conclusion;

5. URGES OAU Member States and the wider international community to provide the necessary assistance to support the reconciliation efforts pursued by the Transitional National Government of Somalia;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary General, working closely with IGAD, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the wider International Community, to continue to support the Transitional National Government in its efforts to sustain reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia.

CM/Dec. 579 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON WOMEN AND GENDER

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary General on the activities relating to women and gender;

2. REQUESTS the Secretary General as well as Member States, to take all appropriate measures to ensure that women are appropriately represented in decision making processes in the OAU;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to support the consultative process through the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD), the Regional Economic Communities, the Economic Commission for Africa and other key stakeholders so as to mainstream women's effective participation and vision within the OAU;

4. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary General to present the outcome of the consultations to the 75th Ordinary Session of Council for consideration.

CM/Dec.580 (LXXIII)

DECISION ON SIERRA LEONE

Council:

1. WELCOMES the signing in Abuja, Nigeria, on 10 November 2000, of a Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) under the aegis of ECOWAS and URGES the RUF to honour its commitments under the Agreement;

2. FURTHER WELCOMES the opening of highways in the rebel controlled areas and CALLS UPON the RUF to disarm in order to facilitate the full deployment of UNAMSIL throughout the territory of Sierra Leone. In this regard, Council APPEALS to countries to contribute troops to enable UNAMSIL to attain its full complement of UNAMSIL;

3. EXPRESSES support for the work of the UN Committee on the ban of the illegal trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone;

4. REAFFIRMS that the Lome Peace Agreement of 7 July 1999 continues to remain the most viable framework for the restoration of lasting peace in Sierra Leone;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary General and his Special Envoy to continue to follow closely the situation in Sierra Leone and to report to Council regularly;

6. REAFFIRMS its support for the efforts deployed by ECOWAS to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone and ENCOURAGES the Secretary General to continue to work closely with ECOWAS.

Regulation

Council: CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1(VIII)

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Further considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Having examined the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of this Treaty,

Rules:

1. Ratification of or Accession to the AEC Treaty

   All Member States of the OAU should ratify or accede to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, as the case may be, if they have not already done so and deposit their instruments of ratification and/or accession to the Secretary General of the OAU/AEC.

2. Cooperation in the Area of Transport

   a) Member States should deploy all necessary efforts for the accelerated liberalization of air transport services in the continent in conformity with the Yamoussoukro Decision concerning Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa;

   b) The Monitoring Body should ensure effective implementation of the above Decision within the stipulated timeframe;

   c) Donors are requested to contribute to the financing of the activities provided for under the Decision.

3. Functioning of the Specialized Technical Committees

   The Secretary General is requested to take urgent and necessary measures to convene the Specialized Technical Committees which have not yet met.

1. Consolidation of Cooperation

Strengthening cooperation among the RECs and between the RECs and AEC.

a) a seminar should be specially organized by the OAU/AEC General Secretariat to define the contours and areas of cooperation, first among the RECs themselves and then between the RECs and the AEC as well as the practical modalities to this effect.

b) The proposed workshop should be proposed by a preliminary sectoral study based on experiences of the RECs.

c) Meetings of the coordinating organs should rotate between the headquarters of OAU/AEC and the headquarters of the RECs parties to the Protocol according to a timetable to be established by the OAU/AEC General Secretariat.

d) The OAU/AEC Secretary General should

i) periodically convene the meeting of the African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa to discuss issues relating to implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

ii) in consultation with the Chief Executives of the RECs, ECA and ADB, determine a specific date for the meetings of the Committee on Coordination one of which should be informal and always precede the sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU/AEC;

iii) ensure that meetings of the Committee on Coordination are prepared by the meetings of the Committee of Secretariat Officials; and

iv) in collaboration with the RECs, draw up the rules of procedure of the Committee on Coordination and submit same for consideration at the next session of this Committee.

e) The AEC and the RECs should, in collaboration with Member States

i) ensure the accelerated physical integration of the African continent by according top priority to infastructural development, more especially transport and telecommunications. To this end, it will be necessary to conclude on-going projects and initiate new projects at both regional and continent-wide levels;

f) AEC and RECS should also:

i)harmonise judicial educational and macro-economic policies to promote national and foreign investments;

ii) mount a popularization campaign to their programmes and activities and accordingly, sensitize all sectors of the African society by involving them in the process of integration of the Continent; the campaign should similarly focus on relations between the AEC and the RECs

iii) Work together towards mobilization of financial resources for their activities in collaboration with ADB and UNECA.

g) In view of the very close correlation between the implementation of the Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the RECs as the pillars of the AEC should come up with proposals for implementation of this Act.

h) The AEC and the RECs should cooperate and take all necessary steps to support African negotiators particularly in the interpretation and implementation of the rules governing international negotiations.

i) The current Chairman of the RECs should:

(i) present annual reports of their activities to their respective RECs and to the OAU/AEC Summit;

(ii) propose items for inclusion in the agenda of ECOSOC Sessions and OAU/AEC Summit to facilitate deliberation on their concerns by the Heads of State and Ministers;

j) the OAU/AEC should also inform the RECs of their major policies and programmes at meetings of the RECs decision-making organs and the RECs should make appropriate provisions to this effect in the agenda of these meetings;

k) the Chief Executives of the AEC and the RECs should deploy necessary efforts to harmonize the calendars of meetings of their respective committees;

l) the Secretary General should ensure that the budgetary resources allotted to OAU/AEC activities take into consideration the needs of the RECs and the new priorities of the OAU/AEC;

m) the RECs are expected to make requisite contribution towards enriching the working documents of the OAU/AEC Extraordinary Summit on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases to be held in Abuja, Nigeria from 24 to 27 April 2001.

2. International Negotiations and Initiatives

a) ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement

The Decision of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade is hereby endorsed;

- the AEC Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration matters should identify the ways and means to ensure coordination of initiatives

undertaken by the African Group in Geneva and Brussels to avoid contradictory positions in the various negotiations at the WTO and with the ACP-EU Group;

- the OAU/AEC General Secretariat should organize a meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade in order for Africa to formulate and adopt a Common Position in preparation for the negotiations between the ACP and the EU, which is due to start in September 2002. The proposed African Common Position should emphasize the ways and means by which future Agreements would strengthen the production and trade capacities of African economies, including the Services trade sector;

- the OAU General Secretariat should carry out studies on all aspects of the Cotonou Agreement, including all Trade Options such as the Economic Partnership (REPAs) proposed by the EU and any other alternative trade agreements, that would preserve the preferential access, in conformity with the trade liberalization and integration programmes of Africa.

b) The Secretary General, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the UNECA and the President of the African Development Bank, should take the necessary measures to enable the OAU Panel of Experts on Negotiations to provide all the necessary assistance to African negotiators to formulate and defend the African Common Position.

c) The Secretary General should also reinforce the collaboration of the OAU/AEC with the Secretary General of the ACP Group so as to better coordinate the African strategy in the forthcoming negotiations of all aspects of the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement;

d) All Member States, members of the ACP Group are to maintain solidarity and close ranks during the preparatory process and the negotiations.

e) The World Trade Organization (WTO) is urged to favourably consider the application to secure derogation to the WTO Agreements for the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

f) The Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

i) The importance of the 3rd UN Conference LDCs scheduled for May 2001, in Brussels is stressed and all Member States urged to participate effectively in the meeting;

ii) The Secretary General is requested to ensure effective support to Africa's preparation for and participation in the Conference and submit a report on it to the July 2001 Session of the Council.

g) The World Trade Organization (WTO)

i) The Secretary General is to provide adequate resources to the OAU/AEC Advisory Panel on Negotiations, for the urgent preparation of the necessary technical studies on the issues jointly identified with the African Groups in Geneva and Brussels.

ii) The Economic and Social Commission of the OAU/AEC should consider an appropriate mechanism for coordinating and guiding the preparatory processes in Geneva and Brussels, and monitor the negotiations in order to ensure that they do not undermine the process of establishing African Economic Community.

h) U.S. Trade and Development Act/Africa Growth and Opportunity Act

(i) Note is hereby taken of the institutional machinery of the Act, namely:

- the U.S./Sub-Saharan Africa Summit to be convened every two years;

- the U.S./Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Forum to be held at the levels of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Secretary of State; Ministers of Trade and U.S. Secretary of Commerce; Ministers of Finance and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury;

- U.S/Sub-Saharan African NGOs and U.S. NGOs.

ii) Note is taken of the fact that the US Trade and Development Act covers primarily countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and US Congress is kindly requested to extend the benefits of this legislation to all African countries;

iii) The Decision of the African Ministers of Trade to request the OAU Secretary General to develop the practical and operational modalities for the establishment of a Consultative Mechanism on the U.S. Trade and Development Act is hereby endorsed, taking into account the need to:

- develop a joint African strategy to promote a more inclusive approach, including the examination of the method by which African countries had met their eligibility requirement;

- establish an Inter-Governmental Mechanism to define the participation and agenda for the envisaged U.S.-Sub-Saharan Summit, including the role of the OAU Secretariat and the African Ambassadors in Washington.

iv) The OAU General Secretariat should work in collaboration with the UNECA, UNCTAD, the RECs and other relevant organizations to conduct an in-depth study to identify the potential benefits, the problems posed by the Act to Member States, as well as their capacity to take advantage of the Act.

v) The U.S. Government is urged to include as many African countries as possible, in the eligibility list and expand the product coverage of the Act, as well as simplify the procedure for benefiting from it;

vi) The Secretary General should carry out consultations with the U.S.-side in order to ensure the full participation of all Member States of the OAU in the proposed Joint Summit and the Trade and Economic Forum.

i) China-Africa Forum

Member States should examine the Beijing Declaration and Programme for China-Africa Cooperation in order to draw maximum benefit from it.

3. 8th All Africa Trade Fair

(a) The decision of the 3rd Conference of African Ministers of Trade held under the auspices of the AEC Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration that the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair be held in Egypt in March/April 2002 is hereby approved;

(b) The Secretary General of the OAU/AEC should carry out consultations with the Government of Egypt in order to fix the precise dates for the Fair;

(c) The Technical Organizing Committee for the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair is constituted as follows:

(i) Chairman: Egypt;

(ii) Members: Nigeria, Senegal, The Sudan, Cameroon and South Africa;

(iii) Representatives of Regional Economic Communities: ECOWAS, COMESA, ECCAS, UMA, SADC, CENSAD and IGAD;

(iv) Collaborating Agencies: International Trade Centre (ITC) of UNCTAD/WTO, UNIDO, UNCTAD Secretariat, ACP Secretariat, ACP Chamber of Commerce, FAO, UNECA, ADB, Union of African Radio and Television Agencies (URTNA), the Pan-African News Agency (PANA), the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE), the East and Southern Africa Business Organization (ESABO), the Africa-Export/Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), Association of African Airlines (AFRAA), the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the International Chamber of Commerce, and Union of International Trade Fairs.

(d) The calendar of meetings of the Technical Organizing Committee is fixed as April/May 2001, October/November 2001 and January/February 2002;

(e) The Commission of the European Union, the UNDP and all Bi-lateral Development Partners of the OAU are requested to favourably consider requests of the OAU and/or its Member States for financial and technical assistance to facilitate the holding of the Fair;

(f) All Member States should make early plans and preparations in order to mobilize their economic operators to massively participate in the Fair;

(g) The Secretary General is requested to present periodic reports to Council so as to ensure the success of the Fair.

7. Eradication of Tse-Tse fly in Africa

a) The invaluable assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the OAU towards implementation of the Summit Decision is appreciated. This assistance was in the form of a consultant to prepare the campaign in an appropriate manner within the prescribed time-frame as well as the initiatives of the OAU/AEC General Secretariat to this effect.

b) The OAU/AEC partners, donor agencies and the international community are requested to respond favourably to the requests of the OAU/AEC Secretary General regarding mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Summit Decision on the tse-tse fly eradication.

c) The General Secretariat should:

i) convene the fourth OAU/AEC Seminar on tse-tse fly eradication in Africa as part of the proclamation of the year 2001 as the year of campaign for the eradication of tse-tse flies from the continent; and

ii) submit a report on the progress so far made to the next Session of the OAU/AEC.

8. Preparation for the Conference on Africa's External Debt

The Secretary General of the OAU/AEC is requested to:

g) deepen the preparatory process for convening Africa's External Debt Conference, by taking the necessary steps to widen the scope of technical work and urgently putting in place the Independent Group of High-Level African Experts to support the Contact Group on Africa's External debt;

h) convene a meeting of the Independent Experts Group to carry out a comprehensive reflection on the African external debt problem, in order to facilitate the holding of an African Regional Experts Seminar to conduct a diagnosis of the continent's debt and consider the establishment of an African Debt Management Fund;

i) submit the proposals to an Africa's External Debt Conference to further reflect on the matter with a view to re-engaging the creditor countries and institutions on the problem of Africa's external debt ;

j) ensure that the General Secretariat coordinates its technical work on Africa's debt and the reform of the international financial architecture with that of the United Nations Open-Ended working Group on Financing for Development in New York in order to prepare and adopt a Common African Position towards the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled for 2002; and

k) convene at the appropriate time the first meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Financial Matters of the OAU/African Economic Community to take a decision on the matter.

9. Review of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

a) Member States particularly those that are States Parties to the Convention should:

i) actively participate in the review process and ensure that their views and comments on the revised draft conventions are ready in time for the experts' meeting; and

ii) send experts and jurists on environmental matters to the experts meeting to be convened on this subject;

b) The General Secretariat should:

i) continue to closely collaborate with UNEP, IUCN with a view to early conclusion of the review of the convention; and

ii) allocate adequate financial resources towards the meeting of African experts for the review of the convention.

c) UNEP and IUCN are requested to provide further assistance to the General Secretariat in its efforts to

mobilize resources for the process. These Organizations are commended for their previous assistance.

10. Establishment of the African Energy Commission

a) The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is hereby commended for hosting the experts' meeting on the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC)

b) The principle of establishing the African Energy Commission is approved.

c) All Member States of OAU are requested to:

i) Participate in the conference of African Ministers of Energy devoted to the establishment of the African Energy Commission to be held in Algiers, Algeria from 23 to 24 April 2001; and

ii) Contribute financially towards the establishment of the AFREC.

d) The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is commended for having offered to host the Conference.

e) The General Secretariat should submit the report thereon to the 74th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly for decision.

11. Follow-up on the Africa-Europe Summit

a) The candidature of Burkina Faso to hold the First Africa-Europe Ministerial Meeting is hereby accepted;

b) The second meeting of the Bi-Regional Group will be held at the headquarters of the OAU in Addis Ababa;

c) The OAU Follow-up Committee shall examine all aspects and modalities for organisation of the Bi-Regional Group Meeting.

ALI TRIKI

Secretary of the General People's Committee for African Unity of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Chairman of the Council